

---

## Section 5 - Directory of Local Historic Preservation Commissions in Alaska

---

- **Certified Local Governments  
(CLG'S)**

In 1980 Congress amended the National Historic Preservation Act to provide for the development of local preservation programs. This program was the Certified Local Government program which is a partnership between the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and local jurisdictions which meet national and state requirements for certification. It is part of the nationwide programs established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 to preserve historic properties including buildings, structures, sites, neighborhoods, and other places of importance in the historical and cultural life of the nation. The program provides for the development of local preservation programs. Political subdivisions of Alaska, such as cities and boroughs, may apply to the State Historic Preservation Office to become Certified Local Governments (CLG'S).

To become certified, local governments in Alaska must have a preservation ordinance, a preservation Commission, a process for inventorying local historic resources, a procedure for reviewing nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, a procedure for reviewing local projects for impacts on historic resources, a process for local preservation planning, and opportunities for public participation. The preservation plan is to include provision for identification, protection, and interpretation of the local community's significant resources.

CLG's receive technical assistance and are eligible for Certified Local Government Grants. At present, nine local governments in Alaska are certified under the program. The Alaska Office of History for Archaeology prepared the

following list of contacts for CLG's (as of May 23, 2002).

### MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE (Certified March 30, 1995)

**City Official:**

**George Wuerch, Mayor**

**Commission Staff:**

**Craig Harpel, Director**

Anchorage Historic Properties, Inc.  
645 West 3rd Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 274-3600  
FAX: 274-3610

**Commission:**

**Anchorage Historic Preservation Board**

**Commission Chair:**

**Jim Romerdahl**

Anchorage Historic Properties, Inc.  
645 West 3rd Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 274-8691  
FAX: 274-3610

### CITY OF CORDOVA (Certified October 19, 1995)

**City Official:**

**Margy Johnson, Mayor**

City of Cordova  
P.O. Box 120  
Cordova, AK 99574-0120  
(907) 424-6200

**Ed Zeine, (Acting) City Manager**

(907) 424-6200

**Commission Staff:**

**Cathy Sherman, Director**

Cordova Historical Museum  
P.O. Box 391  
Cordova, AK 99574-0391  
907 424-6665  
FAX 424-6666

**Commission:**

**Cordova Historical Preservation  
Commission**

**Commission Chair**

Cathy Sherman, Director  
Cordova Historical Museum  
P.O. Box 391  
Cordova, AK 99574-0391  
907 424-6665  
FAX: 424-6666

**CITY OF DILLINGHAM**

(Certified March 1990)

**City Official:**

**Chris Napoli, Mayor**

City of Dillingham  
P.O. Box 889  
Dillingham, AK 99576  
(907) 842-5211  
FAX: 842-5691

**John Fulton, City Manager**

(907) 842-5211

**Commission Staff:**

**Vacant**

City of Dillingham  
P.O. Box 889  
Dillingham, AK 99576  
(907) 842-5203  
FAX: 842-5691

**Commission:**

**Dillingham Historic Preservation  
Commission**

**Commission Chair:**

**Ms. Billie Benedict**

P.O. Box 294  
Dillingham, AK 99576-0294  
(907) 842-2341 (w); 842-1245 (h)  
FAX (907) 842-5924

**FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH  
AND CITY OF FAIRBANKS** (Separate

CLG's: Certified March 1992).

**Borough Official:**

**Rhonda Boyles, Mayor, Mayor**

Borough Mayor's Office  
Fairbanks North Star Borough  
P.O. Box 71267  
Fairbanks, AK 99707  
(907) 459-1300

**City Official:**

**Steve Thompson, Mayor**

City of Fairbanks  
800 Cushman Street  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
(907) 459-6793

**Commission:**

**Joint Fairbanks North Star  
Borough/City of Fairbanks Historic  
Preservation Commission**

**Commission Chair:**

**Claus-M. Naske**

(907) 479-2966

**Commission Staff:**

**Jeff Bouton**

Fairbanks North Star Borough  
Planning Department  
P.O. Box 71267  
Fairbanks, AK 99707-1267  
(907) 459-1260  
FAX: 459-1255  
E-mail: jbouton@co.fairbanks.ak.us

**CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU**

(Certified March 1988)

**City Official:**

**Sally Smith, Mayor**

**City and Borough of Juneau**

155 South Seward Street  
Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 586-5240

**David Palmer, City Manager**

(907) 586-5240

**Commission:**

**Juneau Historic District Advisory  
Committee**

**Commission Chair:**

**Kathryn Cohen**  
(907) 465-3644

**Commission Staff:**

**Mark Jaqua**  
Community Development Department,  
Planning  
City and Borough of Juneau  
155 South Seward Street  
Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 586-0758  
FAX: 586-3365  
E-mail:  
[mark\\_jaqua@mail.ci.juneau.ak.us](mailto:mark_jaqua@mail.ci.juneau.ak.us)  
Web:  
<http://www.juneau.lib.ak.us/history/>

**CITY OF KENAI** (Certified February 7, 1995)

**City Official:**

**John R. Williams, Mayor**

**City of Kenai**  
210 Fidalgo Avenue, Suite 200  
Kenai, AK 99611-7794  
(907) 283-7535  
FAX: 283-3014

**Linda L. Snow, City Manager**  
(907) 283-7535

**Commission:**

**Planning and Zoning Commission, City  
of Kenai**

**Commission Chair:**

**Ron Goecke**  
(907) 283-9436

**Commission Staff:**

**Marilyn Kebschull, Planner**  
City of Kenai  
210 Fidalgo Avenue, Suite 200  
Kenai, AK 99611-7794  
(907) 283-7535  
FAX: 283-3014

E-mail:

[mkebschull@ci.kenai.ak.us](mailto:mkebschull@ci.kenai.ak.us)

**CITY OF KETCHIKAN**

(Certified January 1991)

**City Official:**

**Robert Weinstein, Mayor**

**City of Ketchikan**  
334 Front Street  
Ketchikan, AK 99901  
(907) 225-3111

**Commission:**

**Ketchikan Historical Commission**

**Commission Chair:**

**Victoria Lord, Senior Curator of  
Programs**

Ketchikan Museum  
629 Dock Street  
Ketchikan, AK 99901  
(907) 225-5900  
FAX 225-5901

E-mail:

[victorial@city.ketchikan.ak.us](mailto:victorial@city.ketchikan.ak.us)

**Commission Staff:**

**Micaael Naab, Museum Director**

City of Ketchikan  
334 Front Street  
Ketchikan, AK 99901  
(907) 225-5600  
FAX 225-5602

E-mail:

[museumdir@city.ketchikan.ak.us](mailto:museumdir@city.ketchikan.ak.us)

(City Manger's designated  
representative)

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH**

(Certified September 1987)

**Borough Official**

**Timothy Anderson, Mayor**

Matanuska-Susitna Borough  
350 East Dahlia Avenue  
Palmer, AK 99645

(907) 745-9689

**John Duffy, Borough Manager**

(907) 745-9689

**Commission:**

**Matanuska-Susitna Borough  
Historic Preservation Commission**

**Commission Chair:**

**Vickie Cole**

(907) 745-9742

**Commission Staff:**

**Fran Seager-Boss**

Planning Department, Cultural  
Resources Division

Matanuska-Susitna Borough

350 East Dahlia Avenue

Palmer, AK 99645

(907) 745-9859 or 745-9851

FAX: 745-9876

E-mail:

[Fseagerboss@msb.co.mat-  
su.ak.us](mailto:Fseagerboss@msb.co.mat-su.ak.us)

**NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH**

(Certified March 1987)

**Borough Official:**

**George Ahmaogak, Mayor**

**North Slope Borough**

P.O. Box 69

Barrow, AK 99723

(907) 852-2611

**Commission: North Slope Borough  
Commission on Inupiat History,  
Language and Culture**

**Commission Chair:**

**Fannie K. Akpik**

(907) 852-1754

**Commission Staff:**

**Chris Savok, Inupiat History  
Language and Culture (IHLC)**

**Liaison Officer**

P.O. Box 69

Barrow, AK 99723-0069

(907) 852-2611 or 852-0422

FAX: 852-4224

E-mail: [aglenn@co.north-](mailto:aglenn@co.north-slope.ak.us)

[slope.ak.us](http://www.co.north-slope.ak.us)

Web: [http://www.co.north-  
slope.ak.us.ihlc](http://www.co.north-slope.ak.us.ihlc)

**CITY OF SEWARD** (Certified May 1992)

**City Official:**

**Edgar Blatchford, Mayor**

**City of Seward**

P.O. Box 167

Seward, AK 99664-0167

(907) 224-4045

**Scott Janke, City Manager**

(907) 224-4045

**Commission:**

**Seward Historic Preservation  
Commission**

**Commission Chair:**

**Donna Glenz**

Planning Department

City of Seward

P.O. Box 167

Seward, AK 99664

(907) 224-5230

**Commission Staff:**

**Mr. Kerry Martin, Planning Director**

City of Seward

P.O. Box 167

Seward, AK 99664-0167

(907) 224-4065

FAX: 224-4085

E-mail: [dglenn@cityofseward.net](mailto:dglenn@cityofseward.net)

**CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA**  
(Certified April 1994)

**City Official:**

**Valorie Nelson, Mayor**  
**City and Borough of Sitka**  
100 Lincoln Street  
Sitka, AK 99835  
(907) 747-4269  
FAX: 747-7403  
E-mail:  
[Valorie@ptialaska.net](mailto:Valorie@ptialaska.net)  
**Tony Zimmer, Administrator**  
100 Lincoln Street, Room 305  
Sitka, AK 99835  
(907) 747-1812  
FAX 747-7403

**Commission:**

**Sitka Historic Preservation Commission**

**Commission Chair:**

**Christopher Wilbur**  
713 Etolin Street  
Sitka, AK 99835  
(907) 747-2935w 747-5778h  
E-mail:  
[Chrisw@cityofsitka.com](mailto:Chrisw@cityofsitka.com)

**Commission Liaison with City:**

**Thor Christianson**  
P.O. Box 798.  
Sitka, AK 99835  
(907) 747-8005  
E-mail: [thorc@aol.com](mailto:thorc@aol.com)

**CITY OF UNALASKA** (Certified January 1991)

**City Official:**

**Pam Fitch, Mayor**  
**City of Unalaska**  
P.O. Box 610  
Unalaska, AK 99685-0610  
(907) 581-1251  
**Chris Hladick, City Manager**  
(907) 581-1251

**Commission: Unalaska Historic Preservation Commission**

**Commission Chair:**

**Donna Detweiler**  
(907) 581-1202

**Commission Staff:**

**Lauri Pugh, Administrative Assistant**

Director of Parks, Culture & Recreation  
City of Unalaska  
P.O. Box 610  
Unalaska, AK 99685-0610  
(907) 581-5060 or 581-1483  
FAX: 581-5266  
E-mail: [hpc@arctic.net](mailto:hpc@arctic.net)

• **Certified Local Government Grants**

The kinds of projects that can be funded by CLG grants include:

- Survey and inventory of historic buildings.
- Survey of local prehistoric and historic archaeological resources.
- Preparation of nominations of local properties to the National Register of Historic Places.
- Activities related to comprehensive community planning such as:
  - Providing staff support for a local historic preservation commission.
  - Developing architectural guidelines for use by historic preservation commission for the review of new construction and alterations to properties within historic districts.
  - Developing or strengthening local preservation ordinances.
  - Preparing management plans for the protection of local historic resources.
- Programs for public education in historic preservation such as:

- Preparing and producing exhibits concerning local historical resources and their protection.
  - Preparing and producing brochures describing local historical resources.
  - Preparing special events that educate the public concerning local history and the community's historic resources.
- Rehabilitation of historic buildings, including architectural plans, engineering studies, and physical rehabilitation.

For additional information about the CLG program in Alaska, contact:

**Joy Bryan-Dolsby, CLG Grants Administrator**  
Office of History and Archaeology  
(907) 269-8692  
E-mail: joyb@dnr.state.ak.us

#### • **Other Local Historic Preservation Commissions**

A historic preservation ordinance is an important part of establishing a historic preservation program for a community. Generally, it establishes a board or commission and provides for the designation and protection of historic buildings. Cities usually have conducted a historic building survey or intend to conduct a survey before writing a historic preservation ordinance.

The powers and duties of a preservation commission include responsibility for:

1. Compiling and updating the historic building survey.
2. Establishing their own operating rules.
3. Designating landmarks and districts according to criteria set forth in ordinance.

4. Reviewing demolition permits and instating demolition stays.
5. Reviewing requests to alter or modify a designated historic structure.
6. Performing environmental review of all new plans and ordinances pertaining to historic resources as prescribed by state and federal law.
7. Making recommendations to the Assembly on matters of funding, studying, and programmatic suggestions for historic preservation.
8. Developing a historic preservation plan.
9. Generally promoting historic preservation.
10. Advising owners of historic properties.
11. Performing other historic preservation related functions as appropriate.

The Alaska Office of History and Archaeology prepared the following list of contacts for other local historic preservation commissions.

#### **OTHER LOCAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSIONS:**

##### **CITY OF KUPREANOFF**

###### **City Official:**

**Sharon Sprague, Mayor**

###### **Commission Staff:**

**Kerrie Beebee**  
City of Kupreanoff  
P.O. Box 50  
Petersburg, AK 99833  
(907) 772-366

###### **Commission:**

Kupreanoff Historic Preservation

##### **CITY OF NOME**

**City Official:**  
**John K. Handeland, Mayor**

**Commission Staff:**  
**City of Nome**  
P.O. Box 281  
Nome, AK 99762  
(907) 443-5242  
FAX: 443-5349

**Commission:**  
**Nome Historical Landmark**  
**Preservation Commission**

**Commission Chair:**  
**City of Nome**  
P.O. Box 281  
Nome, AK 99762  
(907) 443-5242  
FAX: 443-5349

## **CITY OF SKAGWAY**

**City Official:**  
**James R. Filip, City Manager**  
P.O. Box 415  
Skagway, AK 99840

**Commission Staff:**  
**Karl Gurke (Volunteer & Vice Chairman)**  
C/O Klondike Gold Rush National Hist. Park  
P.O. Box 517  
Skagway, AK 99840  
(907) 983-2921  
FAX: 983-2046

**Commission:**  
**Skagway Historic District Commission**

**Commission Chair:**  
**Casey McBride, Chairman**  
P.O. Box 517  
Skagway, AK 99840  
(907) 983-2637/2638

**Mayor:**  
**Stan Selmer**

For additional information about the Local

Historic Preservation Commissions in Alaska, contact Judy Bittner, Office of History and Archaeology, Department of Natural Resources, (907) 762-2622.

### **• Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)**

Each state, territory, and the District of Columbia, has a "State Historic Preservation Officer" (SHPO). The SHPO is the official appointed pursuant to section 101 (b)(1) of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) who provides many important services to local governments and historic preservation commissions. The NHPA establishes certain SHPO responsibilities that include the following:

- Ensuring comprehensive statewide historic preservation planning;
- Conducting a statewide survey to identify historic properties;
- Nominating properties to the National Register of Historic Places;
- Administering the Federal historic preservation, grant-in-aid program within the State;
- Assisting local governments in developing historic preservation programs and in becoming certified to participate in the national program;
- Advising and assisting in Federal, State, and local historic preservation projects;
- Participating in the review of Federal, State, and local undertakings that may affect historic properties; and

Providing public information, education, training, and technical assistance in historic preservation.

Under National Park Service (NPS) regulations, SHPO's may also participate in NPS certification of properties and projects for historic tax

incentives.

In addition, SHPO's carry out duties under State laws, and seek to advance the interests of historic preservation such as the following:

- Conducting preservation conferences and workshops;  
  
Administering state legislation to protect historic properties from non-federal construction and land-use projects;
- Distributing State grants and loans for preservation;
- Maintaining and interpreting State-owned historic properties;
- Conducting programs to acquire and administer historic preservation easements;
- Administering State legislation relating to archeological resources, shipwrecks, and other special kinds of historic properties;
- Publishing newsletters, scholarly publications, and popular books and brochures;
- Administering State history museums and conservation laboratories;
- Developing and supporting State and local preservation statutes;
- Helping State and local education authorities use preservation in primary and secondary curricula, and in public education generally; and
- Providing technical assistance to owners of historic properties.

One of the SHPO's important duties is to assist the National Park Services (NPS) in certifying local governments for special participation in the National Historic Preservation program. Another SHPO responsibility is to "pass through" at least 10% of each years' Historic Preservation

Fund grant-in-aid to local governments that have certified CLG's, and to provide technical assistance to such governments. Certification is done in accordance with NPS regulations and guidelines available from the SHPO.

Under NPS regulations, each SHPO must be assisted by a staff of appropriate preservation professionals, which in most cases include historians, architectural historians, historical architects, and archaeologists. The Alaska State Historic Preservation Office consists of the following staff with telephone numbers, mailing addresses and office locations:

**State Historic Preservation officer (SHPO):**

**Judith E. Bittner**

Alaska Office of History & Archaeology  
Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 1310  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3565  
(907) 269-8721  
FAX: 269-8908

**SHPO PROGRAM STAFF:**

**CLG Grants Administrator**

**Joy Bryan-Dolsby** 269-8692  
E-mail: [joyb@dnr.state.ak.us](mailto:joyb@dnr.state.ak.us)

**State Historian:**

**Joan M.(Jo) Antonson** 269-8714  
E-mail: [joa@dnr.state.ak.us](mailto:joa@dnr.state.ak.us)

**State Architectural Historian:**

**James Malanaphy** 269-8726  
E-mail: [jamesm@dnr.state.ak.us](mailto:jamesm@dnr.state.ak.us)

**State Archeologist:**

**Dave McMahan** 269-8723  
E-mail: [davemc@dnr.state.ak.us](mailto:davemc@dnr.state.ak.us)

**AHRS Manager:**

**Joan Dale** 269-8718  
E-mail: [oha@alaska.net](mailto:oha@alaska.net) (attention AHRS)

**Review & Compliance (Section 106) Program:**



**Stefanie Ludwig**

269-8720

E-mail:

[stefaniel@dnr.state.ak.us](mailto:stefaniel@dnr.state.ak.us)